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Agenda item 6 (b)
Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits: review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

Morocco:* draft resolution

Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Brussels Declaration[1] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,[2]

Recalling also its decision 2001/320 of 24 October 2001 establishing, under the regular agenda item entitled "Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the major United Nations conferences and summits", a regular sub-item entitled "Review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010",

* On behalf of States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] A/CONF.191/12.

[2] A/CONF.191/11.

Recalling further its resolution 2002/33 of 26 July 2002 on the oral report of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Land-locked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,

1. *Takes note* of the progress report of the Secretary-General[3] on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010;[2]

2. *Expresses its deep concern* over the weak implementation of the Programme of Action;

3. *Calls* on the Secretary-General, while stressing the central role of the Council in the coordination of actions in the United Nations system for the implementation of the Programme of Action, to take appropriate measures to strengthen the advocacy, monitoring and coordination actions of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Land-locked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States as well as its management and staffing;

4. *Stresses* the need for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action and its annual assessment at the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council, recognizes in this regard the critical importance of the participation of the least developed countries in the assessment process of the Programme of Action, and calls on the Secretary-General to take appropriate measures to facilitate the participation of the delegations of the least developed countries in the annual substantive sessions of the Economic and Social Council;

5. *Calls* on all development partners of the least developed countries, including multilateral financial institutions, to honour their commitments regarding the effective and

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[3] A/58/86-E/2003/81.

expeditious implementation of the Programme of Action and to effect their support in terms of official development assistance, foreign direct investment, debt relief, capacity-building, market access and supply-side support to reforms;

6. *Urges* the developed countries that have not yet done so to make concrete efforts to effectively implement their commitments on official development assistance to the least developed countries as contained in paragraph 83 of the Programme of Action;

7. *Invites* the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions and all other international organizations, to support, as a priority, the implementation of the Programme of Action, including all programmes of financial and technical cooperation devoted to least developed countries;

8. *Welcomes* the initiatives of the United Nations and the Group of Eight to bridge the digital divide that has further marginalized the least developed countries, particularly in the area of information technology, calls on the international community to address the special needs of the least developed countries therein, and in this regard recommends that the forthcoming World Summit on the Information Society adopt concrete actions to bridge the digital divide in the least developed countries;

9. *Calls* on the forthcoming Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, to be held in Cancun, Mexico, in September 2003, to adopt further measures to effectively address the marginalization of the least developed countries in the multilateral trading system and to ensure expeditious accession to the organization for those least developed countries that are candidates;

10. *Calls* on the members of the World Trade Organization to expeditiously implement the guidelines to facilitate and accelerate the accession of the least developed countries to the World Trade Organization, which were adopted by the General Council of the World Trade Organization on 10 December 2002;[4]

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[4] WT/L/508.

11. *Recognizes* that countries graduating from least developed countries status need a smooth transition period so that their developmental programmes and projects may be sustained at a level not lower than before graduation, and in this regard decides that the question of the least developed countries graduation will be considered only at the final evaluation of the Programme of Action;

12. *Calls* on the Secretary-General to submit his annual progress report on the implementation of the Programme of Action in such a way as to put greater emphasis on concrete results and indicate the progress achieved in its implementation.